

LIFELONG HEARING INSTITUTE VASSAR COLLEGE

VCLLI
SPRING 2023

LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT VASSAR COLLEGE

SPRING 2023 CATALOG OF CLASSES

The Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) at Vassar College is a volunteer-run organization designed for adults who love to learn and who wish to contribute to the larger community in their pursuit of knowledge.

We are an adult educational program affiliated with Vassar College offering a broad range of non-credit educational courses and activities to members 55 and over. Classes are taught by volunteer members, retired and active faculty, and outside experts.

LLI at Vassar College believes that education is essential at every age. We are called on to continually expand our knowledge, so we might participate fully as citizens in our democracy. The education process is individually motivated as well as collaborative, with new ideas and new skills often introduced by others with a commitment to sharing.

As we age, life experiences enhance our education. We are fortunate that members with unique perspectives, skills, and expertise are willing to share them with us.

Vassar's LLI is committed to forming a community that advances the education of its members in a collaborative fashion. When we study, explore, and discuss together, we model engagement and expansion for each other.

This Semester Classes Will Be Conducted In Person And Via Zoom.

Proof of Covid vaccinations MUST be submitted for attendance in ALL in-person ON and OFF CAMPUS classes.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CLASS LIMITS:

Members can register for a maximum of three Eight-Week courses per semester:

Six-Week and Eight-Week classes count as Eight-Week courses.

Two Four-Week classes can be combined to equal one Eight-Week course.

Single Session classes do not count against the above limits.

When selecting courses, please note the dates they meet.

Only LLI members may participate in classes; no guests are permitted

Membership fee does not include books, photocopied material, transportation, or other fees.

FOR ZOOM ACCESS AND LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS,

YOU WILL BE CONTACTED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR OR CLASS MANAGER

LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT VASSAR COLLEGE

SPRING 2023 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

SINGLE SESSION CLASS IN PERSON

Note: Special Dates and Times

Thurs., April 27 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Jean Toomer's *Cane*, the 100th Anniversary:
A Vassar Library Exhibition Talk and Tour

Pg 7

SINGLE SESSION CLASSES ON ZOOM

Note: Special Dates and Times

Thursday, March 30 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

A View from the Clean Energy Future

Pg 7

Monday, April 17 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Writer's Law School

Pg 8

OFF - CAMPUS CLASSES IN PERSON

All Classes Are 4 Weeks

Note: Special Dates and Times

Wednesdays, April 12, 19, 26; May 3 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Pickleball 101

Pg 8

Thursdays, April 13, 20, 27; May 4 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Silkscreen: Print Your Own T-Shirt

Pg 9

FRIDAY ON – CAMPUS CLASSES

FIRST PERIOD: 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

March 10, 17, 24, 31; April 14, 21, 28; May 5

8 weeks

Adventures of a Collector

Pg 9

Mar. 10, 17, 24, 31; April 14, 21

6 weeks

Wise Aging: Aging with Grace and Resilience

Pg 13-14

March 10,17, 24, 31

First 4 weeks

Fundamentals of Photoshop

Pg 15

April 14, 21, 28; May 5

Last 4 weeks

Water, Water Everywhere

Pg 17

SECOND PERIOD: 11:05 AM - 12:20 PM

March 10, 17, 24, 31; April 14, 21, 28; May 5

8 weeks

The Winter of Our Discontent **CANCELLED**

Pg 9-10

Short Stories

Pg 10

Non-Western Influences on Western Art

Pg 10-11

A History of Our Times: Social Change and Backlash

Pg 11

March 10, 17; April 14, 21, 28; May 5

6 weeks

Intermediate Spanish: Conversation and Review

Pg 14

March 10,17, 24, 31

First 4 weeks

The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt

Pg 15-16

April 14, 21, 28; May 5

Last 4 weeks

Artificial Intelligence: A Guided Tour (Part 2)

Pg 18

Restoration of Oil Paintings

Pg 18

THIRD PERIOD: 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

March 10, 17, 24, 31; April 14, 21, 28; May 5

8 weeks

The Rise of East Asia

Pg 11

American Style: Federal through Mid-Century Modern

Pg 11-12

Between the Wars: Arts and Culture of the 1930s Pg 12

DEI: What Do They Mean By That? Pg 12-13

March 24, 31; Apr. 14, 21, 28; May 5 6 weeks

A Bluegrass Adventure Pg 14-15

March 10,17, 24, 31 First 4 weeks

Let Go of Clutter and Renew Your Energy Pg 16

April 14, 21, 28; May 5 Last 4 weeks

The Lotus Garden: A Magical Art Journey Pg 19

FOURTH PERIOD: 3:20 PM - 4:35 PM

March 10, 17, 24, 31; April 14, 21, 28; May 5 8 weeks

Vassar Science Sampler Pg 13

March 10,17, 24, 31 First 4 weeks

James Joyce in Four Weeks Pg 16-17

Four Great Nineteenth Century Symphonies Pg 17

April 14, 21, 28; May 5 Last 4 weeks

History of Photography: Artistic Movements Defined Pg 19

TUESDAY CLASSES ON ZOOM

FIRST PERIOD: 9:30 AM - 10:45 PM

March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 11, 18, 25; May 2 8 weeks

(More) Mansions of the Hudson River Valley Pg 20

March 7, 14, 21, 28 First 4 weeks

Mystical Russia Pg 22

April 11, 18, 25; May 2

Last 4 weeks

Financial Planning: The Certainty of Uncertainty

Pg 23

SECOND PERIOD: 11:05 AM - 12:20 PM

March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 11, 18, 25; May 2

8 weeks

Slavery and Freedom in the Hudson Valley

Pg 20

March 7, 14, 21, 28

First 4 weeks

Sustainable Living as Spiritual Practice

Pg 22

THIRD PERIOD: 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 11, 18, 25; May 2

8 weeks

The Nature of Energy

Pg 21

The Ideal Image

Pg 21

FOURTH PERIOD: 3:20 PM - 4:35 PM

March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 11, 18, 25; May 2

8 weeks

A Lively Look At Accessible Poetry

Pg 21-22

April 11, 18, 25; May 2

Last 4 weeks

Psychology and Film

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SPRING 2023 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SINGLE SESSION CLASSES: IN PERSON

Note: Special Dates and Times

Thursday, April 27

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Vassar College Library

Jean Toomer's *Cane*, the 100th Anniversary:

A Vassar Library Exhibition Talk and Tour

Limit: 15

Presenters: **Eve Dunbar and Ronald Patkus**

This single-session presentation, to be held in the Vassar College Library, will begin with a discussion of the 1923 novel *Cane*, by Harlem Renaissance writer Jean Toomer, conducted by Eve Dunbar. The discussion will be followed by a tour of “Beauty Out of the Ashes, Printed Works of the Harlem Renaissance,” a library exhibit curated by Ronald Patkus. Suggested reading: Toomer, Jean, *Cane*. NY: Boni and Liveright, 1923.

Professor Dunbar is a Professor of English on the Jean Webster Chair at Vassar College. Her research and teaching focus on late-19th century to contemporary African American literature. Ronald Patkus is head of Special Collections at the Vassar College Library, and adjunct associate professor of History at Vassar College.

SINGLE SESSION CLASSES: ON ZOOM

Note: Special Dates and Times

Thursday, March 30

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

A View from the Clean Energy Future

Limit: 50

Presenter: **Sean Dague**

We are at the beginning of an energy transition away from highly polluting energy sources to cleaner and safer ones. Over the next thirty years, the world will transform in some expected — and some unexpected — ways. What does that look like for the average household, and for the community and larger scales? What technology exists today for this transition, and what hard problems remain to be solved? And what will be required for this to be successful? Come learn what the world will look like, and how you can make it happen sooner.

Sean Dague is a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby, a volunteer driven grass roots organization that exists to create the political will for a livable world by enabling individual breakthroughs in the exercise of personal and political power. He leads the Mid-Hudson Chapter of CCL and is one of the New York State coordinators.

Writer's Law School

Limit: 30

Presenter: **Jode Millman**

For writers, it's difficult to obtain information about protecting their rights in their creative projects. Moreover, it's often difficult to decipher the "legalese" in this information. In this workshop designed for writers, we'll cover the basics of copyrights, trademarks and key provisions of publishing contracts so that you'll understand the fine print without having a law degree.

Topics covered include: the differences among copyright, trademarks, patents and service marks; the copyright registration process and the case law; public domain; the fair use doctrine; which business entity is best for your writing career; distinguishing among the right of privacy, libel and slander; the anatomy of a publishing deal and contract basics and additional resources to help protect rights.

Jode is the award-winning author of *Hooker Avenue* and *The Midnight Call*, an attorney for more than forty years with practical experience in intellectual property law, a law professor at University of Detroit Mercy Law School, and a presenter of "The Writer's Law School" to national and international literary and visual arts organizations and public libraries. Jode holds a master's degree in English literature specializing in Law and Literature. Jode is the author of the best-selling Broadway series "SEATS: NEW YORK," a producer/host of the popular podcast, "Backstage with the Bardavon" and a book reviewer for Booktrib.com and the *New York Journal of Books*.

OFF - CAMPUS CLASSES: IN PERSON**All Classes Are 4 Weeks****Note: Special Dates and Times****Wednesday: April 12, 19, 26; May 3 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM James Baird State Park****Pickleball 101**

Limit: 12

Presenter: **Vicky Weinblatt**

Introduction to the popular and growing sport of pickleball. Attendees will learn to play the game and we will work through basic drills and game strategy. Instruction will take place on the pickleball courts at James Baird State Park off the Taconic State Parkway in Pleasant Valley. Enrolled students should do their best to attend all four sessions and be in good physical shape. The instruction will be somewhat tailored to the students' abilities. Students will need a pickleball paddle. Balls will be provided by the instructor. Beginner paddles can be purchased on Amazon or at local sporting goods stores.

Vicky Weinblatt has taught pickleball 101 for the last few semesters for VCLLI. She thoroughly enjoyed watching folks go from not knowing the game to becoming addicted in four classes. She plays a few times a week in various locations in Dutchess County and is eager to relay what she has learned to others. Vicky retired from IBM/ Global Foundries in 2020, and in her spare time also enjoys hiking, biking, and taking classes at the gym.

April 13, 20, 27; May 4

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Underwear Factory, Poughkeepsie

Silkscreen: Print Your Own T-Shirt

Limit: 10

Presenter: Anita Kiewra

Come to the Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory Community Printmaking Studio and learn to make a screen, then print a t-shirt or tote bag using your own artwork. Bring your own t-shirt or purchase one from our limited stock.

Anita Fina Kiewra is a teaching artist (M.S. Art Education, The College of Saint Rose) who works for Hudson River Housing leading HRH Made, an arts-based workforce training social enterprise for people transitioning from homelessness. She is the manager of Hudson River Housing's community printmaking studio on the second floor of the Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory.

FRIDAY - 8 WEEK COURSES: ON - CAMPUS

Note: No Classes April 7 - In Observance of the Easter and Passover Holidays

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Adventures of a Collector

Limit: 30

Presenter: Arthur Groten

After talking about collecting in general, I'll look at some of the disparate and fascinating things that I have collected and what led me to do in-depth studies of them. The topics will include: Napoleon's exile on St. Helena, sealing the letter in 19th century Great Britain, Bermuda history as told through correspondence from 1615-1876, the government's promotion of the early airmail service, pre-WWI American aviation history, the Levant fairs of mandate Palestine, Rockwell Kent and Tin Pan Alley.

Suggested readings will be announced before each session as relevant.

Arthur Groten began collecting stamps at age eight. The various topics of this course all arose from his interest in postal history. His large collection of poster stamps has recently been accessioned at Vassar. He has garnered numerous gold medals and grand awards in philatelic competitions and has been a prolific writer on many aspects of philately. He has made presentations at many national and international symposia. He has received the John N. Luff Award for Outstanding Philatelic Research from the American Philatelic Society, the highest honor they can bestow.

11:05 AM - 12:20 PM

The Winter of Our Discontent

CANCELLED

Limit: 25

Presenter: Kris McDaniel-Miccio

The past six years have brought forth a form of political discontent that has fueled a resurgence of nativism. Outward expressions include overt use of violence against historically marginalized communities - people of color, women, the LGBTQI community, Jews, and immigrants. One tool used is the US Supreme Court, which abolished a fundamental right to reproductive health care

for women. Poised to act, it now appears SCOTUS may overturn affirmative action and reinscribe religious supremacy in matters where access to services by the LGBTQ community is challenged. Professor McDaniel-Miccio will examine how this radicalization of political power challenges democratic principles and values.

Suggested Readings: Arendt, Hannah: *Eichmann in Jerusalem* and Sanders, Michael: *Justice*.

Kris McDaniel-Miccio, is an internationally recognized attorney, teacher, and scholar, with expertise in gender equality in law, policy and culture. Professor Miccio founded the first and now largest legal services center for women survivors of male intimate violence. The center changed the topography of law and policy in New York State and nationally. Kris also successfully litigated a marriage equality and a sex discrimination case in Colorado. She was a Fulbright and European Commission Scholar as well as recipient of the Irish Law Society Award in Human Rights.

11:05 AM - 12:20 PM

Short Stories

Limit: 25

Presenter: **Judith Saunders**

The class will discuss one short story per week, considering how various features of the narrative contribute to its overall statement and effect: point of view, setting, plot, temporal structure, character, metaphor, allusion and symbol. All assigned stories are available online; participants are expected to download, print, and read each story before the class session when it is to be discussed and to bring the texts to class in order to examine specific passages in detail. Authors will include E. A. Poe, Elizabeth Bowen, Willa Cather, Somerset Maugham, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Katherine Anne Porter and Edith Wharton.

Judith Saunders is professor emeritus of English at Marist College. She has taught a wide variety of courses, spanning all genres and including interdisciplinary approaches. Her published articles address texts by numerous writers, such as Thoreau, Hawthorne, Poe, Anderson, Wilkins, Millay, Stein, Woolf, Huxley, Bishop and Swenson. She is also the author of book-length studies of Charles Tomlinson and Edith Wharton. Her most recent book is *American Classics: Evolutionary Perspectives*.

11:05 AM - 12:20 PM

Non-Western Influences on Western Art

Limit: 35

Presenter: **Marilyn Price**

This slide presentation course will discuss several non-western influences. It will show some of the influence of Japanese woodcuts on European and American artists of the late 19th and early 20th century, including Monet, Van Gogh and Cassatt, and will include background on Japanese woodcut artists. We will look at African tribal sculpture's effect on Picasso, and his movement away from pure representation. The influence of Oceanic culture and art on the painting sculpture of Gauguin will also be included. Matisse's trips to North Africa and the effect on his painting will also be discussed. A few other examples may be included as time permits.

Marilyn Price is a practicing painter and potter. She studied art at Cooper Union, N.Y.U., and Columbia University and taught A.P. Art History for many years at Columbia Preparatory School in N.Y.C. She has

studied artists whose work interested her since her youngest days as a student. She has taught art history for over ten years through the Marist program at Locust Grove and at Vassar LLI since it began.

11:05 AM - 12:20 PM

A History of Our Times: Social Change and Backlash Limit: 25

Presenter: **Miriam Cohen**

In the mid-twentieth century, many Americans excluded from the post-War II promise of prosperity and freedom organized to demand full participation in a truly democratic society. In this course we look at the efforts of some of those Americans—African Americans, women, ethnic minorities, and the LGBTQ+ community—to broaden the national commitment to social justice. We will also look at the backlash that erupted against these forces of change, emerging with force at the end of the 1970s, and continuing in our own times.

This course will incorporate both lecture and group discussion. To facilitate discussion, prior to class meetings participants will read short primary documents of the era, including brief writings of activists and political figures on both sides of these struggles.

Miriam Cohen, Evalyn Clark Professor Emerita of History, taught at Vassar from 1977 to 2021. She received her B.A. from the University of Rochester in 1971 and her Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan in 1978. Her specialties include the history of American women and twentieth-century American social and political history. She has published widely on the history of women, and on the history of social reform in the United States and Europe.

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

The Rise of East Asia Limit: 30

Presenter: **Tom Walker**

Several countries in East Asia have experienced remarkable economic growth. Perhaps this was stimulated by the early industrialization of Western nations? Another factor might be the resilience of shared cultures among Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Vietnam, Singapore and China. Join us as we explore this region! No prior courses are required and no outside reading is needed to enjoy this course. All copies of slides will be available after each class.

Tom Walker is a retired Navy pilot and graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He is a lifelong teacher, including courses taught at Vassar LLI, Bard LLI and Dutchess Community College.

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

American Style: Federal through Mid-Century Modern Limit: 30

Presenter: **David Roberts**

A survey of the decorative arts in America from the beginning of the 19th Century to the 1960s: domestic architecture, interiors, furnishings, fashion, etc.

David Roberts is a graduate of SUNY New Paltz. He worked at the Metropolitan Opera for three seasons. He also designed and worked at Boston Opera, Washington Opera, San Diego Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, the

Glimmerglass Festival, Philadelphia Drama Guild, and Marin Civic Ballet. He worked for twelve years in the Jim Henson Muppet Workshop. He has taught History of Fashion at Marist for three years, and at FIT for ten years before moving to Poughkeepsie in 2017. He also taught at Montclair State University in New Jersey for several years, as well as one semester at SUNY New Paltz.

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Between the Wars: Arts and Culture of the 1930s

Limit: 30

Presenter: **Chuck Mishaan**

The Roaring 20s ended with the Black Friday crash. The 1930s began with the Great Depression, the rise of authoritarianism and other threats to the fragile new world order that had grown out of the ashes of World War I. How did the literary and visual arts reflect and react to the turmoil and challenge of the catastrophe of this brave new world? What defined the culture of this decade? This course will take a closer look at the arts and culture of the 1930s.

Chuck Mishaan has been presenting courses at Vassar LLI for many years, including his popular Opera as Politics series and recently, *The Roaring 20s*. His commentary on the intersection of politics and the arts continues with this course.

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

DEI: What Do They Mean By That?

Limit: 24

Presenters: **Pamela Porath and Gwen Higgins**

This interactive class is designed to be an in-person mix of experiential activities, TED talks, speakers and at least one panel with local representatives working in the DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) space. Each class will also include large group and breakout discussions to delve deeper into specific topics and provide opportunities for personal reflection. Topics include: Internalized and Implicit Bias, Language of Bias, Representation - where am I visible or invisible, Dynamics of Privilege, Creating Inclusive Environments, Courageous Conversations, Tactics and Specific Actions for the Future.

The presenters plan to explore essential DEI principles through interactive activities and discussions, allowing participants to safely explore such issues as race, bias, social class, prejudice, privilege, and dominant cultural norms. On occasion, participants may be asked to view a TED talk or read a short article prior to a specific session.

A list of suggested readings will be provided prior to the first session.

Gwen Higgins, a retired teacher after thirty-seven years with the Spackenkill District, presents at conferences/retreats. She served on the Commission on Race and Religions and is currently on the Human Rights Commission of DC and DEI Chair for the local AAUW. Gwen graduated from SUNY Cortland, with graduate work at Penn State.

Pam Porath, an external consultant, focuses on organizational/leadership development, and cultural change/diversity. Pam is co-chair of Women's Leadership Alliance at DCRCO, Board Chair at Poughkeepsie Farm Project and DEI Committee Chair for VC LLI. She holds an M.A. in Adult

Education/Spirituality from Regis University and a Ph.D. in Human/Organization Development from Fielding Graduate University.

3:20 PM - 4:35 PM

Vassar Science Sampler

Limit: 35

Organizer: **David Bloom**

Each week a different member of the Vassar science faculty will present a lecture on a topic of their choice. This is the sixth edition of this popular course. Past lectures have visited the end of the universe, the molecular structure of our world, threats to the foods we eat, plant reproduction, coral reefs in the warming world and genetically modified plants.

Presenters:

March 10	Lucy Johnson , Professor Emerita, Department of Anthropology
March 17	Mary Ellen Czesak , Lecturer and Lab Coordinator in Biology
March 24	Juan Merlo , Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy
March 31	Jill Schneiderman , Professor of Earth Science
April 14	Jeff Walker , Professor of Earth Science
April 21	Colette Salyk , Associate Professor of Astronomy
April 28	Lynn Christenson , Associate Professor of Biology
May 5	Kirsten Menking , Professor of Earth Science on the Althea Ward Clark Chair

Course organizer, **David Bloom**, is a retired educator who enjoys connecting people and learning experiences.

FRIDAY - 6 WEEK COURSES: ON - CAMPUS

Note: Special Dates

Mar. 10, 17, 24, 31; April 14, 21

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Wise Aging: Aging with Grace and Resilience

Limit: 20

Presenters: **Linda Cantor and others** (see below)

This course is based on a book by R. Rachel Cowan and Linda Thal, PhD and will be taught by long time members of a local Wise Aging group. We will begin to explore this stage of our lives and delve into some of the following topics: adapting to our changing bodies, asking for assistance, cultivating nourishing relationships, independence, interdependence, talking about difficult subjects, forgiveness, cultivating well being, living life fully, loss and preparing for the future. The class is interactive and participatory.

Presenters: **Linda Cantor, Sandy Corwin, Marge Groten, Muriel Horowitz, Julie Kessler, Mimi Tannen**. Two people will present each week.

Linda Cantor, the organizer of this course, was trained by Rachel Cowan and Linda Thal in a Wise Aging program based on their book, *Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit*. She then cofounded a local Wise Aging group that has been meeting for the past seven years. After two years, other members of the group, working in pairs, began facilitating the meetings. Sandy, Marge, Muriel, Julie and Mimi are skilled facilitators, teachers and members of Vassar LLI.

Mar. 10, 17; Apr. 14, 21, 28; May 5

11:05 AM - 12:20 PM

Intermediate Spanish: Conversation and Review

Limit: 20

Presenter: **Mihai Grunfeld**

This is a six-week intermediate level course for students who have attained/maintained a level of conversational Spanish. (Minimally 3 years of Spanish at high school level or one year of college-level Spanish which you have maintained.) We will speak Spanish in class and dedicate our class space to conversation, reading, discussion and grammatical explanation. Everyone will be expected to purchase an intermediate textbook and dedicate at least 2 hours of homework during the week for each class. If you cannot dedicate the time to do the homework, please do not sign up for the course.

Please note the days of our six classes to make sure you can attend.

Required Text: Enfoque, *Curso Intermedio de Lengua Española*, 4th Edition can be purchased used on Amazon for about \$5.

Mihai Grunfeld has taught Spanish and Latin American Culture and Literature for 33 years, as a full-time faculty member at Vassar College, until he retired in 2020. He has traveled and lived extensively in Spain and Mexico and visited many countries in Latin America.

Mar. 24, 31; Apr. 14, 21, 28; May 5

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

A Bluegrass Adventure

Limit: 30

Presenters: **Lynn Lipton and Walter Ensor**

This outline summarizes a senior enrichment class on bluegrass music to be organized and presented by the Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association (HVBA). The class sessions will feature the six bluegrass instruments (mandolin, fiddle, guitar, banjo, dobro [resonator guitar], and bass fiddle) and will involve both lecture and music demonstration and performance. The instructors will be experienced bluegrass musicians and lecturers. The last class will feature a concert in which the instructors will bring the instruments together in a full-band bluegrass performance.

Each class session will begin with approximately 15-20 minutes of bluegrass background, presented in lecture format with a slideshow, followed by about 30-45 minutes of the presentation/demonstration of the featured instrument(s) for that class.

Suggested Reading: *Can't You Hear Me Calling: The Life Of Bill Monroe, Father Of Bluegrass*, by Richard D. Smith

Walter Ensor is a multi-instrumentalist from New York City who fell in love with bluegrass music when his Kentucky born father gave him a resonator slide guitar. Mr. Ensor was a regular player at bluegrass

sessions in New York City and discovered that he wanted to promote this American art form. Since his move to the Hudson Valley, he has found a home in the Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association, where this great tradition continues. In addition, Mr. Ensor spent twenty-seven years in the New York public school system as a high school physics teacher and home instructor to homebound disabled students.

FRIDAY - FIRST 4 WEEK COURSES: ON - CAMPUS

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Fundamentals of Photoshop

Limit: 20

Presenter: **Alan Perlman**

Adobe Photoshop is the universally acclaimed gold standard image editing program. But for many it's too daunting, too complicated and far too intimidating. This class introduces all the basic features and functions in a way that opens the door to further exploration. Learn about tools, selections, layers, masks, filters and more. Beyond a mere mechanism for "fixing" pictures, understanding the basics of this powerful program will illuminate creative avenues one might never have otherwise imagined.

Since 2013 Photoshop is available only by subscription. The Adobe "Photography Plan" offers the full professional version of Photoshop as well as Lightroom, another powerful program for editing and organizing the large volume of images we typically capture in a digital environment. The monthly cost for this plan is \$9.99 + tax. A simplified version of Photoshop (Elements) is available for outright purchase. Although Elements includes many (but not all) of the same features, the simplified interface is quite different. This class is based on the full, subscription-based version.

Subscription to Photoshop is highly recommended.

Alan Perlman has been a working professional photographer for more than four decades, specializing in corporate communications, executive and business portraiture and special events of virtually every description. His client list includes well-known names such as American Express, NASDAQ, Greyhound, AXA Financial, Costco, The Big Apple Circus, etc. His work has appeared in numerous publications around the world. He has been teaching and speaking about digital photography and Photoshop in a variety of venues since 2006 and was named an Outstanding Teacher-of-the-Year by the Suffolk Association for Continuing Community Education.

11:05 AM - 12:20 PM

The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt

Limit: 30

Presenter: **Sandra Opdycke**

This course will explore Eleanor Roosevelt's remarkable life journey, tracing her development from a lonely childhood in New York City to the early years of her marriage to Franklin Roosevelt, living in Washington; then their years in Albany, when he was governor of New York State; then her experience as a pioneering First Lady; and finally her post-White House years as one of the most admired women in the world. As the story unfolds, we will also consider the complicated nature of

the Roosevelts' marriage, as well as Eleanor Roosevelt's own unique combination of weaknesses and strengths.

Sandra Opdycke, Ph.D., (Vassar, Class of 1957) has published books about the woman suffrage movement, the flu epidemic of 1918, the WPA of the 1930s, Bellevue Hospital, and Jane Addams, as well as several co-authored books on social policy. She worked for a number of years at Hudson River Psychiatric Center, and later taught American History and Urban History at Bard, Vassar, and Marist. She serves as an occasional lecturer at the Center for Lifetime Studies and the Bard Lifetime Learning Institute.

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Let Go of Clutter and Renew Your Energy

Limit: 20

Presenter: **Nancy Smith**

If you have recently downsized your living space, have been thinking about doing so or just feel like you need a jump start in cleaning out unwanted clutter, this is the course to take. We will explore concepts of Feng Shui and discuss other home organization methods used to let go of "stuff" that has been blocking positive energy in your home. Come prepared to share your current concerns and take a look at how clearing and organizing your living space can bring you joy.

Suggested Readings: *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, by Marie Kondo, *The Feng Shui Bible* by Simon Brown (or any other similar books on this subject), *Living a Beautiful Life* by Alexandra Stoddard.

Nancy Smith recently retired as a college administrator who concentrated on housing and residential life for students. She has worked at Vassar, The Juilliard School, The New School and Bard College, and has presented workshops on organizing space and Feng Shui concepts. Within the last two years, she hired a home organizer to assist in "letting go" as she prepared to physically move, and hopes she can translate some of her experiences to you. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from SUNY Purchase and a Master of Education from Springfield College.

3:20 PM - 4:35 PM

James Joyce in Four Weeks

Limit: 20

Presenter: **Richard Gerber**

A brief biography of Joyce and appraisal of his role in modern literature and culture will precede a review and consideration of his primary works: *Dubliners*, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*. The course is designed to inform first-time readers of Joyce of the reasons for his relevance, focusing on his creative use of style, language and imagery. Attendees will be shown samples of Joyce's manuscripts and photographs of his family and associates and will listen to recordings of him reading his works.

Suggested Readings: The short stories collection *Dubliners* should be read in full prior to attending the course. Sections of *A Portrait*, *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake* will be suggested at the end of each of the four sessions.

Richard J. Gerber has been reading and writing about Joyce for over fifty years. His critical studies and reviews of Joyce-related material have appeared in the *James Joyce Quarterly*, *Joyce Studies Annual* and many other publications. Mr. Gerber is a rare and collectible book dealer and some of his books are now in

the Morgan Library, the Rosenbach Museum and Library, the Joyce Library at the University of Buffalo, as well as the libraries of Columbia University, Boston College and elsewhere. Mr. Gerber holds a BA from SUNY Stony Brook and studied Joyce at Columbia in graduate school with Joyce scholars Ed Epstein, Hugh Kenner, A. Walton Litz and others.

3:20 PM - 4:35 PM

Four Great Nineteenth Century Symphonies

Limit: 25

Presenter: **Brian Mann**

This course looks at four symphonies composed between 1800 and 1900. We begin with Beethoven's Fifth Symphony (1808), a work that had an enormous impact on music for the remainder of the century. A few decades later, Hector Berlioz shocked his contemporaries with his *Symphonie Fantastique* (1830), an extravagantly "programmatic" work full of autobiographical touches. Turning to the end of the century, we examine Antonin Dvořák's *Symphony from the New World*, premiered in Carnegie Hall in 1893. Our fourth work is Amy Beach's *Gaelic Symphony* (1897), a little-known masterpiece. No knowledge of music theory is required.

Handouts will be made available in class and handouts, recordings and keynote presentations will be made available on Moodle.

Brian Mann taught for many years in Vassar College's Department of Music. He holds degrees from the University of Edinburgh (B. Mus) and the University of California, Berkeley (M. A., Ph.D).

FRIDAY - LAST 4 WEEK COURSES: ON - CAMPUS

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Water, Water Everywhere

Limit: 25

Presenter: **Paul Ciminello**

An exploration into the complicated relationship that humanity had/has/will have with water, arguably our most precious and yet most abused resource. Topics to be discussed include our many uses of water, our abuse of water, our successful and unsuccessful attempts to control/manage water and, finally, potential future conflicts.

Paul Ciminello is a retired environmental consultant who focused on environmental investigations and remediation with a particular concern for groundwater. Paul received a dual master's degree in Hydrology/Hydrogeology and Public Policy Analysis from Duke University in 1986 and had over thirty years of experience in environmental consulting before retiring in 2019. In addition, Paul has been an adjunct instructor at Marist College since 1999, teaching courses in the Department of Science, including "Environmental Investigations and Remediation" and "Introduction to Environmental Issues".

Artificial Intelligence: A Guided Tour (*Part 2*)

Limit: 20

Presenter: **Jean-Claude Fouere**

This Guided Tour will provide more detailed information on the history of A.I. over the last seventy-five years, telling us about the at times competing, A.I. research and development approaches. It will review increasingly common A.I. uses and applications, setting the stage for discussions on several important personal and societal considerations: the role of big data; global competition; data security and privacy; beneficial side, detrimental side, and malicious purposes of some A.I. applications. The course objectives are simply to make us more informed, more aware and more conscious of the role that A.I. plays, will play, or should play in our daily life and in our community at large.

The first Guided Tour, offered in the Fall 2022, gave us an overview of A.I. history, of its inner mechanics and applications. This is a follow-up Guided Tour.

Jean-Claude Fouere holds master's degrees in physics engineering (INSA, Lyons, France) and optical sciences (U. Rochester, NY). He spent twenty years designing optical systems and managing installation of advanced lithography equipment used in semiconductor manufacturing, followed by another twenty years spent developing and promoting semiconductor manufacturing systems in SE Asia, Western Europe, and North America. Upon retirement, he taught international marketing at Marist College and photovoltaic systems at DCC. He has developed non-credit courses on maps and discoveries, and artificial intelligence. Personal interests are outdoor activities (hiking, canoeing, kayaking, sculling, biking, x-country skiing), environment conservation, history, and global affairs.

Restoration of Oil Paintings

Limit: 30

Presenters: **Matt Soltis and Paul Gould**

Over time, vibrant, colorful paintings erode into dark, dirty and dingy fixtures on the wall. Using a series of procedures executed with patience and precision, restorers can peel back the veil of time. During this program, local artists Paul Gould and Matt Soltis will provide insights about cleaning, color matching, canvas repair and why to have a painting restored in the first place.

Art for **Matt Soltis** began at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history, with a minor in art. During his time there he discovered more than just a passion for the history of art, but also a love for creating it. He became a member of the Cornwall Arts Collective and presented several lectures throughout the Hudson Valley. He practices art conservation with Hudson Valley artist Paul Gould. His vision is to nurture the creative spirits of those who appreciate art and the creative process.

Paul Gould was born in New York City in 1948, the son of prominent artists John and Mary Gould. He attended Syracuse University and Marist College. After graduation, he became Managing Director of the Bethlehem Art Gallery, founded by his parents in 1957. Over the years he has studied with numerous prominent artists. Besides teaching at the Bethlehem Art Gallery, he taught painting at Mt. St. Mary's College, workshops in Europe, New England and on Princess Cruise Lines. Recently, he taught a painting workshop for Cadets at West Point. His restoration work has included work for individuals and museums.

The Lotus Garden: A Magical Art Journey

Limit: 12

Presenters: **Ann Teed and Carol DiPalo**

Instructors Ann Miceli Teed and Carol DiPalo will conduct a mixed media exploration of ways to make art. The lush and lively lotus garden invites you to explore a wide variety of art materials as we re-create this magical environment through watercolor, music meditation, poetry, paper marbling and paper making, torn paper collage, and more. The koi and cattails enter, and we find ourselves envisioning and creating joyful art from our creative spirit. This soulful exploration is for beginners as well as advanced artists.

Ann Teed is a doctoral student at Columbia University, NY, focusing on the connection between art making and the Spirit, Mind, and Body. She is a visual and performing artist within the Hudson Valley, and is the owner of the holistic, expressive art studio, Dancing Willow Arts, located in Lagrangeville, NY. She is currently an instructor at Adelphi University.

Carol DiPalo is a seasoned and inspiring mixed media artist and master educator. Her love and connection to nature are at the forefront of her creativity. Carol has worked for many community non-profits within the Hudson Valley, where she played a major role in the creative conception and implementation of art programming. She is currently retired from the Arlington Central School District and continues to make authentic, meaningful, and inspirational art.

3:20 PM – 4:35 PM

History of Photography: Artistic Movements Defined

Limit: 30

Presenter: **Robert Stevens**

This course will explore the major aesthetic movements in the history of Photography and how they related to the other arts. Starting in the 1830s, photography imitated other visual arts; next, the Pictorialism Movement of the late 1880s; followed by the pure photography of Paul Strand and the clarity of West Coast Photographers; then Europe between the World Wars and the world in Depression; and closing with the New Social Landscape photography of the 1960s.

While some of this course has been previously offered, what's new this semester is that participants are invited to go home and create a photo in the style of the movement talked about in class. Photos will be shared in class.

Robert Stevens studied the history and theory of photography at SUNY Buffalo. After graduation he worked for two years in the *Time-Life* Picture Collection with 10 million images before becoming International Photo Editor at *Time* magazine for almost 30 years. He was a trustee of the W. Eugene Smith Memorial Grant in Photography. In 2010 he was editor of a book of photographs of 1920s Paris, titled *Yvon's Paris*. He has published two books of his street photography: *Unintentional* (2015), and *Evidence* (2020). He is currently working on two new books: *Last Summer in Paris* and *Old Manor Farm*.

TUESDAY - 8 WEEK COURSES: ON ZOOM

Note: No Classes April 4 - In Observance of the Easter and Passover Holidays

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

(More) Mansions of the Hudson River Valley

Limit: 100

Presenters: **Katy Anson** and guides at individual mansions

A look at the mansions that overlook the Hudson River and the fascinating families that lived in these architectural treasures. Each week we will explore a different great house of the Hudson Valley.

This is a team-taught course, with tours conducted by site guides. Dates may be subject to change.

March 7	Locust Grove
March 14	Cherry Hill Mansion , Albany
March 21	Gracie Mansion , Home of NYC Mayors
March 28	Clermont State Historic Site
April 11	Schuyler Mansion , Albany
April 18	Lyndhurst
April 25	Crailo Mansion , Rensselaer
May 2	Lindenwald , Home of President Martin Van Buren

11:05 AM - 12:20 PM

Slavery and Freedom in the Hudson Valley

Limit: 100

Presenters: **Peter Bunten** and others

We will examine the local history of slavery, antislavery and the Underground Railroad, linking its role and importance to national movements during the 1700s - 1800s. Topics will include the origins of slavery in the Mid-Hudson area, the development of a strong antislavery and abolitionist sentiment, the leadership of enslaved and free Black people in fighting for their freedom, the importance of free Black communities, the disappearance of Free Blacks from some areas of Dutchess County, new history learned from the uncovering of African American burial grounds in the mid-Hudson area and the modern-day legacy of slavery.

Lead Presenter: **Peter Bunten**, a native of Poughkeepsie, is executive director of the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project, located in Dutchess County. He is a trustee of the Dutchess County Historical Society and is affiliated with Celebrating the African Spirit in Poughkeepsie. Mr. Bunten was the education manager for Historic Hudson Valley for several years. He has a master's degree in Historical Studies/Public History from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Other presenters: **Bill Jeffway**, director, Dutchess County Historical Society; **Daniel Jones**, independent historian and chair of the MHAHP; **Zachary Veith**, historic interpreter at Staatsburgh State Historic Site.

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

The Nature of Energy

Limit: 30

Presenter: **Rob Cohen**

The nature of energy is a story of science, power and practicality. This course examines energy products available today, how they work and what benefits and costs each offers. We humans have always used our limited understanding of the universe to forge beneficial relationships with nature. Most of the "benefits" have been accrued by humans, but in an ideal world our relationship would be mutually beneficial and sustainable. I have a fascination with both nature and history. I often encounter stories that are relevant to everyday life with the added benefit of being both entertaining and useful. (This course was most recently offered during Fall 2022).

Rob Cohen is a farmer who practices sustainable agriculture, as well as a technology consultant focused on helping nonprofit organizations leverage technology. His lifelong interest in science, history and understanding how stuff works shapes his unique approach to staying connected to nature while living and working in an increasingly unnatural environment. Rob is also on the last leg of a thirty-year quest to use energy sources that are sustainable.

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

The Ideal Image

Limit: 25

Presenter: **John McGiff**

We will look at iconic pieces of art and architecture from a variety of cultures and time periods and consider not only their immediate sources of inspiration, but also their influences on contemporary culture. (This course has been offered previously at Vassar LLI).

John McGiff has been an educator for thirty years. After receiving an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania in 1989, he worked for seven years as an adjunct at Temple and Drexel Universities, teaching drawing, design and painting, and served one year as a full-time assistant professor of painting at Temple. He later became chair of the arts department at St. Andrew's School, a preparatory boarding school in Delaware. In addition, he has run the Warner Gallery, taught AP art history, painting, drawing and a senior seminar for twenty-two years.

3:20 PM - 4:35 PM

A Lively Look at Accessible Poetry

Limit: 30

Presenter: **Marcy Heidish Dolan**

In this course, you are invited to meet three contemporary poets whose work is often called "accessible" without sacrificing artistry. Billy Collins, a former U.S. Poet Laureate, is the best-selling author of over eight books of poetry, hailed for their wit, creativity and depth and defined in his own words as "hospitable to the reader." Kay Ryan and Ted Kooser, also former Laureates, are lauded for their "hospitable" work. In their different voices, these writers have helped to change the way many of us think about poetry. What makes this so? Here, we will explore this "new" form of a timeless art.

Marcy Heidish Dolan, B.A., Cum Laude, Vassar College; M.A., American University. Marcy is an award-winning, published author of eighteen books: fiction, non-fiction and poetry. She has also written short

pieces for GEO, Hemispheres, Southwest, and The Washington Post. She is a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Grant; LINKS Award; Sam S. Schubert Fellowship Grant; Molly Thatcher Kazan Prize; Vassar College Apex Award and Edgar Allan Poe Award nominee. Throughout twenty years, she has been an instructor at Georgetown, George Washington, Fordham, Howard Universities and at Pillar Continuing Education, North Texas University, and OLLI, Denver, CO.

TUESDAY - FIRST 4 WEEK COURSES: ON ZOOM

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Mystical Russia

Limit: 100

Presenter: **Nathan Rosenblum**

A fascinating exploration of the spiritual heritage of Russia, this course examines how, from ancient times to the present, mystical teachings have been used across this vast territory by many different groups. The course will also cover what this usage has meant for the wider world. We shall look at texts, artifacts and film clips demonstrating these traditions. Ultimately, we will connect these ideas to our modern world and discover their importance to our understanding.

Dr. Nathan Rosenblum is an ordained interfaith minister and longtime researcher and lecturer on spirituality and mysticism. With degrees in literature, history, and metaphysical philosophy, as well as studies in many other fields, he works to show how different areas of knowledge combine to give a deeper understanding of the nature of reality.

11:05 AM - 12:20 PM

Sustainable Living as Spiritual Practice

Limit: 50

Presenter: **Lyla Yastion**

At the root of all religions and spiritual paths is a reverence for the Creation and an acknowledgement of the human responsibility to care for the Earth. We will examine the teachings of the main religions regarding the human relationship to the natural world as well as modern iterations of ancient Earth-wisdom such as deep ecology, ecotheology and creation spirituality. With this review of the deeply rooted ties between humanity and all life forms as a foundation, we can approach our own practices of sustainability as forms of worship, gratitude and sacrifice: we “make sacred” our lives.

Lyla received a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University at Albany and has taught courses in anthropology and religious studies at the college level for eighteen years. Recently retired, she has been teaching courses at various LLI campuses in the Hudson Valley, including Vassar. She is the author of two books: *Pause Now, Handbook for a Spiritual Revolution* and *Homesick: Finding Our Way Back to a Healthy Planet* - both published by Hamilton Books. Lyla is a reiki master with training in shamanic healing. She lives in Tillson, NY with her husband and two cats.

TUESDAY - LAST 4 WEEK COURSES: ON ZOOM

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Financial Planning: The Certainty of Uncertainty

Limit: 100

Presenter: Kelsey Ponesse

When financial planning in retirement, one thing we can be certain of is that there will be unplanned events that are out of our control. An important piece of thinking about your retirement plan is planning for the "what if" of those uncertainties. This course will cover some of those uncertain retirement financial planning topics and how better to plan for them. We will cover: retirement realities and planning for the long life; volatile markets and how to better prepare; taxes in retirement and what to expect; the long-term care landscape.

Kelsey Ponesse is a CPA and wealth planning advisor at Marshall & Sterling Wealth Advisors in Poughkeepsie. She has over a decade of experience in the accounting and finance industry, working with clients and the complex financial choices that support their lives, their families' lives, and their legacies. Kelsey believes in supporting the Hudson Valley community with financial education, especially for women. She believes that the more you know, the more you can be aware of actions to take for financial security and well-being. She frequently hosts webinars, presentations, and educational events on retirement and financial planning topics.

3:20 PM - 4:35 PM

Psychology and Film

Limit: 100

Presenter: Denise Morett

Film is a powerful art medium for exploring topics in psychology. The film industry has long had a tremendous role in our society in countless ways, including entertaining, inspiring and teaching. Students will watch films that reflect multiple psychological themes. Class discussions will reflect key elements about psychology of a viewer's experience, the filmmaker/production, depictions of psychology and psychologists/healthcare and psychological issues/treatment. While the course has been offered previously, the chosen films will be different.

Dr. Denise Morett is a licensed psychologist with a private practice and consults at various hospitals and facilities. She is the best-selling author of *Lifeline*, and has taught college level psychology courses as well as conducted workshops and trainings throughout the over thirty years of her career. She has been an instructor for VCLLI in past semesters. Her interests are varied and include the use of expressive arts, particularly film, as they relate to the human condition and topics of psychology.

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